



Northlea United Church

In the community. For the community.

125 Brentcliffe Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 3Y7

www.northleaunited.ca ✧ 416-425-5252

FAITHFUL FRIENDSHIP



April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

At Northlea United Church,
we encourage one another as we:
Love God ✧ Connect with others
Nurture the spirit ✧ Serve the world

Northlea rests on the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

Thank you for joining us for service today whether in-person or online. If there is anything we can do to improve your experience, please let us know by calling the church office at 416 425 5252 or emailing us at office@northleaunited.ca. There are many ways to access online videos whether live streamed or pre-recorded. The Northlea United Facebook page or our website will have links to our services:

Facebook:

Simply sign on to Facebook and search for the Northlea United page. You will find links there.

www.northleaunited.ca:

Visit our website. Links will be posted to our homepage for easy access.

Thank you for helping with today's service:

LLWL Cheryl Stenson – Presiding

David Jafelice – Music Director

Kaisha Lee – Soprano ✧ Karen Davidson – Alto

Joshua Clemenger – Tenor ✧ Andrew Gunpath – Bass

Jo Dullard - Livestream Production ✧ Donna Rutz - Social Media Support

Anne Saunders - Reader

Minister: Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom lee-ann@northleaunited.ca

Music Director: David Jafelice david@northleaunited.ca

Office Administrator: Tricia Reid office@northleaunited.ca

Facility Manager: Robert Pringle building@northleaunited.ca

Congregational & Community Outreach Coordinator: Jo Dullard jo@northleaunited.ca

Consider financially supporting Northlea United through Canada Helps (scan QR code) or by contacting the office to receive a Pre-Authorized Remittance form to set up automatic monthly donations or by mailing in your donation.



Please contact the church office if you would like more information.

416 425 5252 or office@northleaunited.ca

** Unless otherwise indicated: Prayers (various) are taken from “The United Church of Canada – Gathering - resources for worship planners Lent/Easter – 2024 Year B Worship, Music, and Spirituality ISSN-0823-1869 1.9M108/23 230004 CH11192

Northlea United Church
Sunday, April 21, 2024

We welcome LLWL Cheryl Stenson as our guest worship leader today.

“Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11

Choral Prelude: If Ye Love Me Keep My Commandments

Thomas Tallis (c. 1505-1585)
(John 14:15-17)

Welcome

Donna Rutz

Call to Worship:

LLWL Cheryl Stenson

Parent God, you’ve blessed us with Jesus’ life to teach us the lessons we need to grow.

We reach for the wisdom.

Guiding God, you set us the goal of manifesting your loving will, of being your hands and feet in this world.

We watch for direction.

Powerful God, you offer us the insight and strength of the Holy Spirit.

We welcome inspiration.

Our souls are uplifted by these gifts as we journey toward the ultimate ascension.

We are walking home.

Gathering Hymn: The Risen Christ

Voices United 168

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle to remind of us of the eternal source of love, the heart-fuel with which God blessed us in the friend and teacher we have in Jesus. And let us light it as a community, walking together towards that inextinguishable fire.

~ Light candle ~

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

The Gift of Peace

(Take a moment to turn and greet one another in the peace of Christ—a smile, a bow, a wave)

Song: What a Wonderful World written & composed by George Douglas & George David Weiss
Sung by Harold Bratten

Prayer of Acknowledgement:

God, we receive your gift of love.

And know we are meant to pay it forward.

Sometimes we take for granted the people who mean the most to us.

Help us celebrate them in our lives every day.

Sometimes we shy away when a gesture of friendship could assure someone of their worth.

Remind us to make the effort.

An embrace begins with open arms.

Friendship begins with open hearts.

Assurance of Grace:

God brings into our lives opportunities to grow into the best version of ourselves - opportunities to befriend and be befriended, to look into the *eyes of others with sure acceptance and appreciation of who they are. God's love is always flowing to us and beyond us. Thanks be to God.*

Hymn: Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Voices United 602

❖ **Listening** ❖

Prayer for Illumination:

Anne Saunders

Holy Spirit, stir us with your word,
as we listen for inspiration in your sacred story.
Amen

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

John 15: 9-16

In this reading we hear God's voice,
The Spirit is still speaking, thanks be to God.

Reflection: Faithful Friendship

LLWL Cheryl Stenson

❖ **Responding** ❖

Anthem: Eastertide Carol (Rise Up in Early Morning)

Mainz gesangbuch, 1628
arr. by Richard Proulx, 1988

Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us away from temptation and deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide

More Voices 145

Commissioning:

Let us all, as friends in God,
take leave of each other in love.

Let us extend into the world
the bonds we form in faith.

May we be strengthened in God's love,
to hold our fellows up in friendship.

May we be guided by Jesus' example and steadied by the Holy Spirit.
And may we shine God's blessing on all we meet.

Benediction

Sung Amen:

Ken Canedo / Bob Hurd

A - - men. A - - men. Now and for - ev - er, a - - men. A - - men. A - - men. *rit. poco a poco al fine* Now and for - ev - er, a - - men.

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Postlude



LLWL Cheryl Stenson Biography

Cheryl has been a member of Glebe Road United Church since getting married there in 1996. She began at Glebe serving coffee and tea in fellowship hour, became secretary of the board, then Clerk of Session, and then Chair of the Board for many years. Her greatest joy at Glebe has been singing in the choir and the yearly musical events.

The Glebe sanctuary has been the venue of Cheryl's wedding, the baptism and confirmation of her daughter Melodie, and the funerals of her grandmother, mother, and, most recently, her husband, Bill. And her church family, the "Glebers", has seen her through it all.

Over the years, Cheryl stepped into the pulpit when Glebe's minister was away and found a passion in creating services and sermons. Eventually, she decided to take the Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) course with the United Church of Canada, receiving her license in November 2021.

Cheryl firmly believes that God led her to Glebe for many and varied reasons which have revealed themselves over time. She has found joy in worship and support in friendships and she is a devoted "Gleber" (a term she coined many years ago). Cheryl also helped coin Glebe's mission statement, "Inclusive. Inventive. In Faith." She aspires to reflect those same qualities in her work as an LLWL.

Next Week's Readings

From The Gathering

Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8

To find out what's happening at Northlea United, visit northleaunited.ca.

What's Happening at Northlea...

Today: Join the Search Team in the youth room for a Question & Answer session regarding Northlea's Living Faith Story and position description that will be voted on at the congregational meeting on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

Wednesday April 24, 2024 – 7:00 pm - If you are not able to attend today's in-person Q&A session, there is an opportunity to ask questions on Zoom at 7:00 pm, Wednesday, April 26. You can email the office at office@northleaunited.ca or call at 416 425 5252, ext 1 to receive the Zoom link and it will be available in the NewsBites.

Sunday, April 28, 2024:

- 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Lee-Ann Ahlstrom
- 11:30 am – Congregational Meeting (as above)

Sunday, May 5, 2024: 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Ruth Noble

Tuesday, May 7, 2024 – 6:00 pm – UCW Pot-Luck Dinner and presentation

Sunday, May 12, 2024 – 10:30 am – Worship with Rev. Ruth Noble; Anniversary Sunday; Mother's Day

Tuesday, May 14, 2024 – 7:30 pm – Taizé

Sunday, May 26, 2024:

- 10:30 am - Worship
- 11:30 am - 2024 Annual General Meeting

Ongoing:

- Sundays – 10:30 am Worship
- Wednesdays:
 - 11:00 am – Chair Exercise continues to May 8
 - 4:00 pm – Nothing But Treble youth choir extended to May 8
 - 7:30 pm – For The Love Of Singing Community Choir continues to May 1
- Thursdays:
 - 1:30 pm Art Circle:
 - 7:30 pm Northlea Choir Practice continues to May 16th
- Fridays – 2:30 pm Bible Study on Zoom